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UNCLAS KUWAIT 000123

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STATE FOR NEA/EX

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: OPERATION OF COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY (CPA)
FEDERAL DEPLOYMENT CENTER (FDC) IN KUWAIT

1. Summary. All personnel assigned to CPA Baghdad currently must transit Kuwait in order to board military aircraft to/from Baghdad International Airport (BIAP). These personnel are assisted by CPA's Federal Deployment Center (FDC) Forward-Kuwait, who provide the travelers with briefings and equipment. The FDC is planning to move to Baghdad once commercial flights are permitted to land there. However, if commercial flights cannot land in Baghdad by July 2004, the support provided by the FDC may still be required after the transition of CPA to Embassy Baghdad. It is unclear to us now, who will assume this responsibility and its associated very large costs and staffing. This cable is to alert the Department of the issues and some thoughts on a possible course of action. End Summary.

2. Post officers met with Colonel William Porter, Chief of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) Federal Deployment Center (FDC) Forward-Kuwait and Timothy Haines, Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR), on 3 January.

3. COL Porter advised that the FDC Forward-Kuwait plans to move to Baghdad International Airport once commercial air flights are permitted to land there. When, he said, depends on the security situation. COL Porter also mentioned that the FDC has, since October 2003, been providing pick-up and transport support to British troops and personnel. This support is several times a week for a small number of personnel (about less than 15 a week).

4. The staff at the FDC Forward-Kuwait (located at Kuwait Hilton Resort) currently consists of one U.S. Army Officer, one Army NCO and about 50 KBR contract personnel. FDC Forward has about 20 plus cars/trucks used for transportation support. At the Hilton, FDC leases 13 villas and KBR leases 13 villas, most for lodging and some for both lodging/offices. In addition, FDC rents a number of rooms in the main hotel complex for briefing/office/supply space. FDC-Kuwait is currently averaging about 30 persons arriving and departing a day for normal operations. During peak periods, the figure moves up to about 60 persons arriving/departing. Personnel deploying to CPA must spend one day at the FDC receiving equipment (flak jackets, helmets, gas masks) and briefings.

5. Under the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP), KBR provides logistics support to CPA. Task Order #44 of the LOGCAP directs KBR to provide logistics and life support services to CPA at numerous locations. Task Order #63 directs KBR to provide LOGCAP support for the CPA Federal Deployment Center, to include FDC-Kuwait. Embassy has received copies of both task orders. Embassy understands the total dollar value of Task Order 63 alone is \$10,411,948 (this also includes operation of the deployment activities at Fort Belvoir).

6. Embassy has set up an Iraq Support Unit, consisting of a coordinator (Eligible Family Member), one administrative assistant position (also EFM, shared by two individuals who work on a WAE basis providing meet/greet and other travel assistance), one Travel Assistant/Secretary (LES), and one contract chauffeur/vehicle. This unit provides support to the increased level of Codels and other visitors transiting Kuwait to Iraq, and also coordinates with the FDC for support for their travelers that the FDC cannot provide (mainly ticketing, visas).

7. Embassy Kuwait understands that by July 2004, CPA will in effect transition to Embassy Baghdad. While it is impossible to determine at this time what the exact situation will be in July, if BIAP is still not be open to commercial flights then many of the services provided by the FDC will still be needed. This is considerably beyond what Post's Iraq Support Unit as currently configured could provide. The easiest solution would be to continue the appropriate portions of LOGCAP Task Order 63. Post has requested a 02 Management Officer and an OMS be assigned to Kuwait summer 2004. These positions could in effect replace the current FDC Chief and NCO, as well as take over the overall coordination of Embassy Kuwait's Iraq support efforts.

8. Action Requested: Department please advise of any plans

for how personnel will be deployed to Embassy Baghdad after July 1. If deployment will be through Kuwait, we will need to enter into detailed discussions on how to make the transition as seamless as possible.

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